



October 6, 2004

Reply to Attn of: Office of the General Counsel

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Blanket Determination Regarding Attendance at a Reception on October 13, 2004, to Mark the Release of the Most Recent Publications in the NASA History Series

On October 13, 2004, the NASA History Division and the Space Policy Institute, George Washington University, will co-host a reception in the NASA Headquarters Library, Washington, D.C. It has been determined to be in the best interest of the Government for those NASA employees who are invited to this event to attend in their official capacities and as representatives of NASA.

The reception marks the release of the most recent NASA History Series publications, "Exploring the Unknown: Selected Documents in the History of the U.S. Civil Space Program, Volume VI, Space and Earth Science" and "NASA's Nuclear Frontier: the Plum Brook Reactor Facility." These publications represent the latest compilation of references in the NASA History series for those interested in space history and policy.

The event will be widely attended by members from other Federal agencies, congressional staffers, and academia. The estimated cost of the event, which includes all food and beverages is \$18 per person. Approximately 60 people are expected to attend. The event will give NASA employees an opportunity to discuss the two latest publications in the NASA History series with other guests. As such, I find that this event meets the requirements of a "widely-attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR § 2635.204(g). I therefore conclude that NASA's interest in its employees attending this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may, or may appear to, improperly influence NASA employees in the performance of their official duties.

Accordingly, NASA invitees and their spouses or guests may attend the reception co-hosted by the NASA History Division and the Space Policy Institute on October 13, 2004.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Andrew Falcon".

R. Andrew Falcon